

**From:** Thiele, Aaron  
**To:** [Andrea Travnicek](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Dan Jorjani](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [David Mihalic](#); [Doug Domenech](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Elinor Renner](#); [Greg Sheehan](#); [Gregory Sheehan](#); [James Cason](#); [Jason Larrabee](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Rees, Gareth](#); [Rusty Roddy](#); [Scott Angelle](#); [Scott Cameron](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Todd Willens](#); [Vincent DeVito](#); [William Dove](#); [John Tanner](#); [Todd Wynn](#); [John Tahsuda](#); [Michael Argo](#)  
**Cc:** [Foster, Maureen](#); [Caminiti, Mariagrazia](#); [Bryan Rice](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Bi-Weekly Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 05, 2017 5:51:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [Bi-Weekly Briefing 12-6-17.pptx](#)

---

All, attached are the slides for tomorrow briefing.

On Mon, Dec 4, 2017 at 11:38 AM, Thiele, Aaron <[aaron\\_thiele@ios.doi.gov](mailto:aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

All,

We are scheduled to have our next bi-weekly meeting with Assistant Secretaries and Directors this Wednesday at 9:30. I will need everyone's completed slides to me by tomorrow at 3:00pm. If you are out of town or for some reason will not be attending, you are still responsible to ensure that your slides are completed, and someone from your hallway is able to present them.

Let me know if you have any questions, and attached are the slides from the previous briefing.

Best,  
Aaron



# Bi-Weekly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke

November 8, 2017



# Agenda

1. Insular Areas
2. Fish and Wildlife and Parks
3. Water and Science
4. Policy, Management, and Budget
5. Land and Minerals Management
6. Indian Affairs
7. Solicitor
8. Congressional and Legislative Affairs
9. External Affairs/  
Intergovernmental
10. Communications
11. White House Liaison
12. Scheduling and Advance



# Insular Areas



# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## Hurricane Recovery

- The Department continues to participate in the White House Principals Committee meetings on the hurricane recovery framework, as well as the weekly FEMA Recovery Support Function Leadership Group for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.
- On November 30, 2017, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt testified at the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior Environment and Related Agencies to discuss the Interior supplemental budget request.
- Interior is the lead federal agency on the Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery mission. Small teams have been deployed to PR and VI for this mission.



# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## Issues

- **Guam Compact Impact Funding**: Authorized \$14.9 million for Guam's 2018 portion of permanent Compact Impact funding: \$6.7 million for schools and \$8.2 million for general operations.
- **One Reporting System**: OIA and the U.S. Department of Education have signed an MOU to create a USG-wide comprehensive web-based reporting system on federal grants to the U.S. territories.
- **RMI and FSM Education**: Hawaii staff conducted visits with FSM and RMI to discuss current education sector issues. Also held discussions with Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) on data collection tools for implementing quality school accreditation systems in the RMI and FSM.



# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## Issues

- **RMI Health Funding Issues**: Continuing Resolution Extensions threaten The Four Atoll Health Care Program in the RMI. OIA is considering awarding a portion of the FY18 funding within the next couple of months, for the program to continue its services without interruption.
- **CNMI Visit**: Governor Torres and others will be in DC week of Dec. 11 to advocate for a solution to the CW visa waiver foreign workers issue.
- **Sovereignty**: At their request, OIA transferred full decision-making powers for the Bikini Resettlement Trust Fund, currently valued at \$59 million, to the Bikini Mayor and Council Leaders. The Trust Fund, first established in recognition of damage done to Bikini Atoll by nuclear testing, had been administered by Interior for 35 years.



# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## Issues

- **Film**: On Friday, December 15, the Office of Insular Affairs will host a special screening of Island Soldier, a documentary on Micronesian soldiers in the United States Army. The Ambassador of Micronesia to the U.S. will give brief welcome remarks. The film producer and two D.C.-based U.S. Army soldiers from Micronesia will hold Q&A following the film.





# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

### December 11 - 14, 2017 – Domenech & Dir. Pula Travel to Hawaii to:

- **Keynote the Island Government Finance Officers Association** meeting in Maui. Finance Officers from all seven Insular areas will report on the state of their respective areas. The IGFOA is funded by OIA to support fiscal responsibility, accountability, and best practices.
- Meet with **Hawaii Governor David Ige** on Compact Impact issues.
- Be Briefed by the **U.S. Pacific Command** on the United States' Pacific defense posture.
- Meet with OIA Honolulu staff who aid in the administration of Compact grants to the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.
- **January 2017** – Travel to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), postponed from December, to meet with President Hilda Heine, U.S. Ambassador to the RMI Karen Stewart and travel to Majuro, and Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll.
- **February 2017** – Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas & Coral Reef Task Force in Washington, DC. Hope the Secretary will welcome group.



# Fish and Wildlife and Parks



# Fish and Wildlife and Parks



## Current Operations

- ASFWP
  - Shutdown for FWS and NPS
- FWS
  - African trophies
  - New refuge access chiefs
- NPS
  - Mountain Valley pipeline
  - Isle Royale National Park wolves



# Fish and Wildlife and Parks



## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- FWS
  - Priority Endangered Species items
    - Delistings
    - Downlistings
- NPS
  - Anti-harassment work
  - Fee increase
  - 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary



# Fish and Wildlife and Parks



## Major Events and Travel

- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jason Larrabee
  - In the office
- FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan
  - In the office
- NPS Deputy Director Mike Reynolds
  - In the office



# Water and Science



# Water and Science

## Current Operations

### Bureau of Reclamation

- Draft NOI on Central Valley Project and Bay Delta Operations
  - Comments due today
- Drought Contingency Plan
  - Seven Basin States Meet on 12/6

### U.S. Geological Survey

- Resource Assessment of National Petroleum Reserve is Complete and ready for a late December release
- Meeting with NASA on Landsat 9, 12/6



# Water and Science

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

### Bureau of Reclamation

- Columbia River Treaty
- Title Transfer
- Klamath Basin: Potential Letter

### U.S. Geological Survey

- Critical minerals
- Sage Grouse
- Continue to review projects and publications





# Water and Science

## Major Events and Travel

### Bureau of Reclamation

- Invasive Species Site Visit, Lake Mead, NV 12/6
- Senior Leadership Strategic Planning Meeting, Shepherdstown, WV 12/7-8
- Navajo Generating Station Meetings, Page, AZ 12/11-12
- Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Conference, Las Vegas, NV 12/13-15

### U.S. Geological Survey

- Tour of LAWDP Infrastructure to Assess Seismic Readiness, Los Angeles, CA 12/8
- American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA 12/11-15
- Urban Waters Federal Partnership Celebration of Success Event, Atlanta, GA 1/25/18



# Policy, Management and Budget



# Policy, Management and Budget

## Current Operations

- FY 2018 Budget
  - Continuing Resolution through 12/8; hopefully another CR through 12/22 after that
  - Contingency planning under way in case of government shutdown evening of 12/8; plan is to inconvenience the DOI visitor as little as possible, with emphasis on NPS and FWS
  - OMB expected to respond this week to our common regional boundaries reprogramming; concerned about timing of tribal consultation for BIA/BIE
- FY 2019 President's Budget
  - OMB analyzing our appeal of their Passback, response expected later this week
  - (b) (5)
- Disasters
  - Awaiting Congressional action on our request for emergency supplemental appropriations



# Policy, Management and Budget

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Grants management
  - Memo in process to explain grant approval process for balance of FY 18 and beyond
  - Asst. Secy's and bureau directors being asked to focus grant eligibility criteria up front on Secretarial Top 10 Priorities
  - Departmental manual updates on grantmaking likely January/February 2018
- DOI reorganization for the next 100 years
  - Low-cost reprogrammings in FY 18, Congress' reaction expected in January
  - Awaiting OMB feedback on broader reorg plan; likely to be approved in part for February budget rollout, and part addressed later in the spring
- Government Performance and Results Act revised strategic plan for DOI
  - Expecting OMB feedback in mid December; second opportunity for us to revise the plan
  - Final plan due for public release on 2/5/18 with budget
  - Plan's metrics need to be tied to SES performance standards



# Policy, Management and Budget

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Human Resource management
  - SES performance evaluations finalized in December
  - Need to settle on FY 18 SES performance standards reflecting Secretarial priorities
  - Best Places to Work in Government report comes out this week; DOI expected to remain in eleventh place among large agencies in 2016
- January SES meeting
  - January 10, 11 for 1½ day meeting
  - Agenda under refinement
  - JMA concept a focus
  - Secretary's telephone town hall on 12/6



# Policy, Management and Budget

## Major Events and Travel

- Scott Cameron at Lake Mead National Recreation Area outside Las Vegas NV today to discuss state concerns with invasive mussels with NPS, FWS, Reclamation, WGA staff, State of Nevada, State of Idaho



# Land and Minerals Management



# Land and Minerals Management

## BLM

### Current Operations

- Regulatory Reform
  - Waste Prevention
    - Delay Rule (FRN Target 12/8)
    - Change Rule (FRN Target 12/8)
  - Hydraulic Fracturing
    - (OIRA requesting federal agency comments)
- Sage Grouse Scoping Period ended December 1
- December 6 BLM-AK will hold a lease sale for 900 tracts in the NPR-A.

### 30-60 Day Outlook

- BLM will hold 8 Lease Sales throughout Dec
  - New Mexico: 7 Parcels, 227 acres
  - Colorado: 10 Parcels, 1,227 acres
  - Nevada: 208 Parcels, 388,959 acres
  - Montana: 204 Parcels, 98,889 acres
  - Utah: 75 Parcels, 94,00 acres
  - Wyoming: 45 Parcels, 72,843 acres
  - Eastern States: 7 Parcels, 1,185 acres





# Land and Minerals Management

## OSMRE

### Current Operations

- Rosebud Mine
  - Pending surnaming process
- AML Summit December 13-14

### 30-60 Day Outlook

- State program amendments for approval (PA, WY, KY) remaining from past 8 years
- Upcoming Mine Plan Decisions
  - Dry Fork Mine - To ASLM Dec 6
  - Belle Ayr Mine - To ASLM Dec 27
  - Cordero Rojo Mine - To ASLM Jan 22
  - Bridger Mine - To ASLM Jan 24



# Land and Minerals Management

## BOEM

### Current Operations

- Lease Sale 250
  - Target publication of NOA in mid December
  - SEIS currently in surnaming
- Liberty Island
  - Extended comment period ends December 8

### 30-60 Day Outlook

- Next milestone in 5-year plan- Publishing draft proposed program (DPP)
  - Publication starts 60 day public comment period
  - Preparing letters for all 50 governors



# Land and Minerals Management

## BSEE

### Current Operations

- Well Control & Subpart H
  - Expected to be sent to OMB Thursday
- Meeting with Taylor Energy
  - Taylor Energy, DOJ, NOAA , ASLM and SOL
  - Discuss field tests conducted at the MC-20 site

### 30-60 Day Outlook

- Change Management Initiatives
  - 50 priorities identified for BSEE in support of President & Secretary's priorities



# Land and Minerals Management

## Major Events and Travel

On December 6, Kate MacGregor will be in New Orleans for a presentation to the Offshore Operators Committee.

From December 7-8 she will attend the DOI senior leadership meeting in West Virginia.

From December 5-9 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Casey Hammond will be in Nevada for meetings with mining industry stakeholders and the Western Caucus Foundation.



# Indian Affairs



# Indian Affairs

## Current Operations

- BIE negotiated rulemaking continues...
- BIE review of charter school options continues...
- Update of Land into Trust Regulations
  - Dear Tribal Leader Letter
  - Upcoming Consultations planned
- Reviewing regulations and processes on titles and leases
  - 184 Mortgage effort with HUD
  - Short form leases for tribes engaged in commercial real estate development
- Land Buy Back Program
- Beginning work on planning on ITARA pilot project



# Indian Affairs

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Work on charter school policy proposals from NIEA
  - Expansion of grades and facility sharing
  - Eliminate prohibitions on charter schools as school choice options for BIE schools
  - Allow BIE schools to contract with charter management organizations
- Work on Indian Trust Asset Reform Act – Title 2 – Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project
  - Scheduling two tribal consultation session and 1 teleconference session for February 2018



# Indian Affairs

## Major Events and Travel

- Keynote Addresses / Presentations
  - Speak to National Indian Gaming Association (Tahsuda, 12/5)
- Tribal Consultations
  - Off-Reservation Land into Trust (January and February dates being considered)
  - BIE Strategic Plan (12/5, 12/12, 12/14)
- Navajo Generating Station/Peabody Mining
  - Joint meeting with Dr. Travnicsek at Peabody in AZ (12/11-12)
- Osage Minerals Council
  - BIA Director Rice will attend the Osage Mineral Council bi-annual meeting on 12/13/2017 as required by the settlement agreement.
  - Potentially PDAS Tahsuda to attend





# Solicitor



# Office of the Solicitor

## Current Operations

- General Update



# Office of the Solicitor

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- General Update



# Office of the Solicitor

## Major Events and Travel

None



# Congressional and Legislative Affairs



# Congressional Affairs

## Current Operations

- Nominees
  - Combs (ASPMB), Nelson (Solicitor) & Balash (ASLM) – Marked Up and awaiting floor vote
  - Tim Petty – ASWS Nominated, Hearing 12/5/17, QFRs in progress
  - Tara Sweeney – AS-IA Nominated, OGE legal review
  - Steve Gardner – OSM Nominated, OGE legal review
- Floor Schedule:
  - Senate – 2 week CR, Kirstjen Nielsen Confirmation, Tax Reform Conference
  - House – CR, Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017



# Congressional Affairs

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

### Hearings

- **(12/6)** SCIA hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017
  - **Witness:** Alan Mikkelsen
- **(12/6)** HNR WPO Subcommittee will hold a legislative hearing on HR.4465 which has impacts on Bureau of Reclamation and Fish Wildlife Service.
  - **DOI will not be testifying but will provide a statement for the record.**
- **(12/12)** Senate Energy Committee will hold a hearing on December 12 regarding permitting reform.
  - **Witness:** Jim Cason

### Legislative Agenda

- Supplemental Disaster Relief bills - Delayed
- Senate Interior Appropriations
  - Released out of committee, need to conference with House. Expect January Omnibus
- Maintenance Fund Language – On the Hill, awaiting OMB
  - Senate - Alexander, Gardner, Daines, Tillis / House – Simpson
- Swain County Budget Request



# Congressional Affairs

## Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Meetings for Secretary Zinke
  - Capitol Tree Lighting / Speaker's Christmas party
- Congressional Meetings for Dep. Sec. Bernhardt
- Western Caucus (12/8-12/9)
  - Amanda Kaster (OCL), Casey Hammond (ASLM), Marshal Critchfield (ASFWP)
  - Topics: Monuments & ESA





# External and Intergovernmental Affairs



# Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

## Current Operations

- Western Governors: WY, UT, ID, MT, AK, CA Natural Resource Director
- Wildfire Roundtable
- Continued FACA Board Outreach
- Continued Monument Outreach
- Building out plans for OCS/MBTA/Critical Minerals
- Christmas Party



# Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- [oiea@ios.doi.gov](mailto:oiea@ios.doi.gov)
- Building state legislator program and outreach
- Following up on Hunting and Fishing Access for Veterans Roundtable



# Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

## Major Events

- Wildfire Roundtable December 11

## Travel

- Jason Funes: American Legislative Exchange Council (Nashville, 12/7-12/8)
- Tim Williams: Council of State Governments (Las Vegas, 12/14-12/16)



# Communications



# Office of Communications

## Current Operations

- Dec. 4 - Event with POTUS in Utah on Monuments
- Dec. 5 - Release of the Secretary's full Monument Report
- Dec. 12 - Announcement of draft proposed 5 yr Program for OCS Oil & Gas
- Dec. 14 - Waste Prevention/Venting and Flaring Rule
- Next Week - DOI-Wide Workplace Survey Results
- Secretary's End of Year and Christmas Video



# Office of Communications

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Critical Minerals Report, EO Comms Rollout
- Wildland Fire Roundtable
- Comms Plan for end-of-year accomplishments



# White House Liaison





# White House Liaison Office

## Personnel:

- Schedule C
  - 35 of 70 onboard
  - 4 starting
  - 8 in process
- SES
  - 28 of 44 onboard
  - 3 in process
- PAS
  - 4 out of 17 onboard
  - 6 of 17 announced
  - 14 of 17 submitted



# Scheduling and Advance



# Scheduling and Advance

## In Town Events:

- Lighting of the Congressional Christmas Tree (12/5)
- Meeting with New Mexico Governor (12/8)
- Wildfire Roundtable with Sec. Perdue (12/11)
- Lunch with POTUS and VPOTUS (12/11)
- Brenda Burman Ceremonial Swearing In (12/11)
- USPP Horse Mounted Patrol Graduation (12/14)
- DOI Employee and Secretary's Christmas Party (12/14)
- Wreaths Across America (12/16)
- Cabinet Meeting (12/20)

## Upcoming Trips

- Possible: Florida day trip to meet with Governor (12/15)
- Personal Travel (12/22 – 1/2)